

2014 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UPTON LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (ULSC)

In 2014 the ULSC continued with the implementation of the Land Stewardship Plan for the Stefans Farm Open Space. A wetland mitigation area was constructed, funded by a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant. Invasive plant control continued. Vehicular access from Orchard Street was evaluated but is not currently recommended due to the high cost of a stream crossing.

The town was awarded a third Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant, this time for signage and interpretive panels on open space properties. Work began on kiosk design, with a prototype to be installed at Stefans Farm in 2015.

Plots at the community garden were made available to Upton residents at no cost.

Richard Howarth mowed the field at Howarth Glen. In addition, he and his wife, Naomi, gave us their time for an interview about their family and life in North Upton in the 1900's for our oral histories about open space parcels.

The parking spaces at the Whitney Conservation Area (WCA) parking lot are now delineated with granite car stoppers. Installation of signage and construction of a kiosk are planned.

The BOS approved the ULSC's management of two small land-locked open space parcels. Parcel 4-12 (22 acres) abuts the Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area and the Whitney Conservation Area. Parcel 5-5 (13 acres) abuts the Whitney Conservation Area.

Two Eagle projects were completed. Tom Coley of Upton Troop 132 made improvements to the Community Garden, and Ashby Hobart of Milford Troop 4 constructed a bridge and re-routed a degraded trail at the Peppercorn Hill Conservation Area.

Also at Peppercorn Hill, the ULSC installed a new sign at the Crockett Road Trailhead/parking area. This replaces a sign that had lasted over 25 years.

Trail access to the Goss Pond Open Space from Green Lane was established. A one day water quality evaluation of Goss Pond was conducted. No invasive aquatic weeds were noted.

The ULSC and Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) conducted routine yearly monitoring of the Sweetwilliam Farm Conservation Restriction and members of the ULSC accompanied SVT on the Whitney Conservation area, also a part of yearly monitoring

Hours contributed by volunteers and committee members added up to 235 work hours, valued at \$ 6,345 (http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time) to develop trails and the community garden, map trail networks, prepare GIS maps, engage in negotiations, grant writing and administrative work. Additional hours were contributed by Boy Scouts working on Eagle projects.

The ULSC is spearheading an effort to remove trees from and maintain the historic stone foundation of Schoolhouse #6 on Glen Echo Open Space. Funding will be sought in 2015 to maintain and protect the historic foundation. The project is supported by the Historical Commission.

The ULSC has received a DCR grant for the development of a Forest Stewardship Plan for the Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area and adjacent town owned land in North Upton. Together, the parcels total about 330 acres. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Massachusetts Audubon Ecological Extension Service will assist with the project. Work will begin in February of 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Heim
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Mike Penko-Secretary
Marcella Stasa-Chairperson
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